The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Entered as second-class matter, September 20, 1912, at the Post-Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

VOL. 13, NO. 51. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 1924. WHOLE NO. 674.

DOLLAR MAY STRIKE, BUT NOT WORKERS, SAYS HIGH COURT

The United States supreme court has ruled (Railroad commission of Texas vs. Eastern Texas railroad) that the dollar may strike when it is not receiving a sufficient wage (interest). The "rights of the public" are not considered.

The court takes a contrary position when human beings are involved. In the Adamson case—officially known as Wilson vs. New—the supreme court said:

"That richt (to strike) is necessarily surrendered when the men are engaged in public service. They are in a position analogous to soldiers in the ranks who, in the presence of the enemies of their country, may not desert."

The Texas decision, just rendered, involved the right of a small railroad to cease operations because it is losing money.

State officials insisted that this will inconvenience the public and that the road should operate until its charter expires.

The supreme court upheld the railroad's perpetual strike. Said the court:

"The usual permissive charter of a railroad company does not give rise to any obligation on the part of the company to operate the road at a loss.

"The company, although devoting its property to the use of the public, may withdraw irrevocably or absolutely, but on condition that the public shall supply sufficient traffic on a reasonable rate basis to yield a fair return.

"And if at any time it develops with reasonable certainty that future operations must be at a loss, the company may discontinue operation and get what it can out of the property by dismantling the road."

In other cases the court has taken the same position—that the dollar has the right to strike, regardless of the public's inconvenience.

The human being, however, is not accorded this right.

The supreme court, so solicitous for the dollar, has said that public utility workers "are comparable to soldiers in the ranks who, in the presence of the enemies of their country, may not desert."

The dollar is permitted to strike. The court rules it owes no duty to the public.

The worker is not permitted to strike without bringing odium to his patriotism.

If the public utility dollar finds its employment unprofitable, if it operates at a loss, if he is unable to meet increased living costs, and strikes to secure a higher wage, note the changed attitude of the court.

Then the court talks of "soldiers in the ranks" and prepares to classify the strikers as enemies of their country.

When the dollar strikes, this course is condemned by the court. The public's temporary inconvenience is of more importance than maintaining the right to cease work and secure a higher living standard that benefits all.

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Now, who is responsible for agitation against our judiciary?

OLD GUARD IS PANICKY, COWERS BEFORE STORM

Washington, March 8.—The old guard is panicky. Teapot Dome is bad enough, but other troubles loom. Investigations and probes are the order of the day as governmental scandal after scandal is unearthed.

Things would not be so serious if these matters could be switched into the federal court of some former corporation lawyer, but the senate indicates no desire to have the scandals hushed up.

"You are causing the people to be suspicious of government," shriek the agents of big business. They are told that the people are getting suspicious of the spokesmen for organized wealth.

The old guard dare not openly oppose these investigations, so they make flank attacks by attempted ridicule and by pleading for "a fair trial" for those yet in office who were parties to Harding administration scandals.

In the senate, the agents of privilege declare that body "is swept off its feet by a wave of hysteria."

This was said once too often last week, and was answered by Senator Carawa in a speech that was marked by withering sarcasm.

"It may be that the senate is hysteri...al," said the Arkansas lawmaker. "If it is, it is hysterical in trying to see that crimes shall be punished and the people's property protected."

The disordered condition of the old guard is best indicated by the manner in which the committee to investigate the attorney general was selected. The old guard wanted the committee appointed by the presiding officer of the senate. The progressive element wanted the committee selected from the floor of the senate.

The old guard then assumed its favorite pose when cornered. "To not let the presiding officer appoint this committee would be a reflection on his integrity; it would be discourteous," they said.

This had no effect on the progressives, who announced that the committee would be chosen from the floor. The old guard had to accept the bitter dose. Senator La Follette nominated Senator Brookhart as chairman. The other members of the committee are Messrs. Moses and Jones, representing the administration party, and Messrs. Robinson and Wheeler, representing the minority party.

This incident is most significant. It indicates how impotent the old guard has become.

Steel Trust Accepts 8-Hour Theory

New York, March 8.—Steel barons find that the eight-hour day is profitable, and once again organized labor can say: "We told you so."

The latest approval of the shorter work day is contained in a special Pittsburgh dispatch, printed in the New York Times, issue of February 28. The dispatch says:

"Pittsburgh, Feb. 26.—The first half year of the eight-hour day in the steel industry has shown results of greater efficiency in the mills, better relations between employer and employes and a higher standard of living among the workmen and their families, according to surveys recently made in various steel manufacturing centers. It is declared an increase of cost in the making of steel from $2 to $3 a ton has resulted.

"The United States steel corporation and 70 per cent of the independents have almost completed the change from the two shift to the three shift day. The steel corporation established the eight-hour day August 16, 1923, in the plants where continuous operations are maintained.

"Welfare workers maintained in all plants of the corporation by the general welfare board, under the direction of L. H. Burnett, assistant to the president of the Carnegie steel company, have followed up conditions closely since the adoption of the shorter day and found in most cases that the men are satisfied with the eight-hour turn because they have more time at home with their families and more time for recreation.

"The most difficult problem growing out of the change in working hours is that of maintaining tonnage and efficiency, according to officials. Most of them say that they do not know whether efficiency is higher or otherwise, but that the tonnage at the furnaces is the same. There is a better spirit and contentment among the workers. Few complain. This was not so on the longer run.

"While the eight-hour day has slightly lowered the earnings of the average steel worker, bankers in several districts, including Homestead and McKeesport, declare there has been no falling off in the working men are more thrifty, cause of the decrease. It is stated the workingmen are more thrifty. More men are buying their own homes."

TEAPOT DOME AFFAIR SCANDAL OF DECADE —GOMPERS

Washington, March 8.—Declaring that "it is no time for political play or for the protection of political friends" and that "the whole cancer must be cut out," Samuel Gompers, president of the A. F. of L., voices labor's demand for a thorough investigation of the Teapot Dome scandal in the leading editorial of American Federationist, March issue.

"Teapot Dome, the scandal of the decade, now comes to light through the activities of the A. F. of L., nearly two years ago, when the ink was scarcely dry on the secret contract by which the great naval oil reserve in Wyoming was turned over to Harry F. Sinclair," says Mr. Gompers.

"Information concerning this lease and the men of the Tidal Trust to serve in California to Doheny came to the A. F. of L. from those who had learned of the infamous deal and who knew of no other avenue by which to reach the public with the truth.

"The A. F. of L. in May, 1922, provided the channel through which the information reached the public through the labor press of the United States.

"When the lease was signed in secret the great newspapers of the country were silent. For weeks afterward they were silent. For months afterward most of them were silent. And until a comparatively few weeks ago they remained silent.

"But now the big guns and everybody knows what took place two years ago when Albert B. Fall was secretary of the interior. It is known how supervision of the naval oil reserves was transferred from the navy department to the department of the interior and leased by the department of the interior to Sinclair and Doheny.

"The leasing of the naval oil reserves is a colossal betrayal of national trust. Its enormity unfolds as the end of the trail is not yet in sight."

TWO VIEWS OF ORGANIZED LABOR

THE WASHINGTON HERALD
(Hearst's Paper)
Issue March 4, 1924.

Our American labor organizations are scattered, discordant, belligerent. Their titular leader spends his time denouncing prohibition and insisting that the American working men should have the right to get drunk every Saturday night, and many labor leaders waste spending most of their time quarreling over questions of jurisdiction.

Three years ago the British labor representatives came to this country to watch the convention of the American Federation of Labor, and they returned after giving out a statement that American labor was at least 25 and possibly 50 years behind the times.

They were mistaken in this, for when American labor once finds itself and gathers to its fold all who are willing to help and are capable of helping it will make up its lost time rapidly.

FRANK HODGES,
Secretary British Miners at A. F. of L. Convention, 1923

In England and in Europe generally, because wages have fallen, and we have permitted them to fall, unemployment has increased, industries have languished, business has come to a standstill, and the latter stage is infinitely worse than the first.

We have taught the world in America how to maintain the purchasing power of the workers, and therefore you have maintained a standard of living in America for the workers of America, higher than the standard of living in any civilized country.

Your standard of living is higher than any I have ever come across for the worker.

The standard of living in Great Britain is a thing of which we are heartily ashamed.

We take our lessons back to the old world to emulate your splendid example.

"CAN'T-STRIKE" LAW WOULD BE REVIVED?

New York, March 8.—The nation's large employing interests have not abandoned efforts to handcuff labor to its work.

This is indicated in a statement issued by the national industrial conference board, which represents a score of anti-union organizations. The board announces that after a year's study it has reached the conclusion that the Kansas industrial relations court has not received a clear test, either favorable or prejudicial.

Although history in the Middle Ages records numberless attempts to set wages and prices by law and bind workers to their task, the board now says that the Kansas court "has been a novel experiment, suggestive as a guide for future effort to meet a complex and difficult problem."

The board recommends that the Kansas court "be based upon and built up out of the machinery and processes of voluntary private collective bargaining, developed through effective and representative group organizations."

This recommendation is amusing to those who recall that not a single organization affiliated with the national industrial conference board has dealings with the trade union in that industry. Many of these employers are maintaining hand-picked company "unions" in their establishments, and it is presumed that this is the sort of an "effective and representative" organization these employers will favor in conducting a law to prohibit workers from quitting their employment.

The United States supreme court passed on the Kansas law in June, last year. It then ruled, in the case of the Wolff packing company, that the industrial court has no right to set wages for this concern. This was the outstanding point in the decision. The question of holding workers to their task was not passed upon, though the court hinted that if the state permits the relations of the workers to the public are equivalent to "the enlistment of soldiers and sailors in military service."

CONVICTS ARE LASHED

Memphis, Tenn., March 8.—Convicts in the state penitentiary at Nashville are lashed, according to David Hanley, of the legislative committee, state federation of labor, in his address before the trades labor council.

The unionist said that this brutality goes hand in hand with convict labor, which is exploited in Nashville by the Alliance textile manufacturing company. This concern, said Mr. Hanley, started operations 25 years ago with a capital of $25,000. Today it has contracts in nearly a score of prisons, and reports an annual profit of nearly $1,000,000.

POWDER BONDS RETIRED

New York, March 8.—The Dont corporation, manufacturer of powder and ammunition, has retired, by redemption, $18,000,000 of its 7½ per cent bonds, issued three years ago. This redemption is possible because of the company's fabulous profits the last few years. The company's surplus was $7,000,000 more than $7,900,000, after every charge was made.

UNIONISTS ARE ACTIVE

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, March 8.—Trade unionists in this city are arranging an organizing campaign that will continue during the month of May.

The campaign includes speakers at all shops, jobs and plants; special literature, mass meetings, and personal visitations.

BOOKWORM "RADICALS" WORK IN SWEAT SHOPS

New York, March 8.—The bookworm "radical" who talks of the "social revolution" and who works in a sweat shop does not appeal to Max Danish, editor of Justice, official magazine of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

This element professes to be the "vanguard of progress." They can see nothing but struggle in organized labor. The workers' struggles are unaesthetic to these souls who live in a rarefied atmosphere of "art" and anti-union shops, under sweating conditions.

The "radicalism" of these workers can not be questioned, says Editor Danish. "They attend lectures on questions of high political and literary import with a zeal that is well-nigh religious," he says. "Their enthusiasm for the 'social revolution' is as burning as it is unbounded."

The labor editor refers to one group of these "radicals" who developed to such a point, "intellectually," that none believed to the union. An attempt to organize them brought an injunction against the union. The boss then asked these "revolutionists" to sign an agreement that they would not join the union. All but two signed that agreement. The boss continues to enforce his anti-union conditions while the "vanguards of progress" talk and dream of the "social revolution."

LESS TAX ON PROFITS DOESN'T HELP PUBLIC

New York, March 8.—The excess profits tax was reduced two years ago on the theory that living costs would be reduced and industry stimulated, but this has not materialized, said Congressmen Griffin of New York, in explanation of his tax.

"No one will have the effrontery to claim that any of these profiteering corporations have fulfilled that promise," said Mr. Griffin. "On the contrary they have kept right on in their course of gouging the consumer. Like the tiger that has once tasted human blood, these profiteers had their appetites whetted by $400,000,000 of profits and they will never be content to abate their appetites." The speaker explained that the purpose of taxing individuals while corporations pay only 12½ per cent.

"If a individual, has a business which yields a profit of $100,000 per annum, he will pay in surtaxes approximately $48,000," said Congressman Griffin.

"If the X corporation does the same business and has the same profit per annum, it will pay in taxes, just because it is a corporation, only about $12,000."

STEREOTYPERS GAIN

Pittsburgh, Pa., March 8.—Organized stereotypers have negotiated a new agreement with the Pittsburgh newspaper publishers' association. The rate is $46 a week for day work and $49 for night work. The old rate was $42.50 and $45.

DEFEAT NIGHT WORK

Oakland, Cal., March 8.—Organized bakery workers have defeated night work in that industry. The plan was proposed by the owner of a comparatively small bakery, but this was part of a scheme urged by the wholesale bakers.

STATE UNIONS TO MEET

Port Arthur, Texas, March 8.—Officers of the Texas state federation of labor have issued a call for the annual convention. It will convene in this city on Monday, April 21.

MACHINISTS ENJOINED; CAN'T DISCUSS STRIKE

New York, March 8.—How would you like to be one of the factory men in an injunction judge warn you that if you tell your troubles to anyone he'll jail you for contempt of court?

That's what Judge Strong of Long Island City, near here, has handed machinists on strike against R. Hoe & Co., manufacturers of printing presses. Officers of the Machinists' union are forbidden by the blackjack Judge Strong lets it be known that he is agin' the strikers, now and hereafter.

They are "enjoined and prohibited" from combining or agreeing together "in any manner to injure or destroy plaintiff's good will, trade and business."

Judge Strong further says the strikers or their agents shall not mention the strike. They are enjoined from "declaring or representing that a strike exists" in plaintiff's shops, and they are enjoined from asking any one to help them.

Lest he has overlooked some plan by which the machinists might aid their cause, Judge Strong enjoins them from "devising any other means and methods for doing or attempting to do any of the aforesaid acts."

WOULD CONTROL CEMENT

San Francisco, Cal., March 8.—Organized Labor in this section is agitating against the unrestricted and foreign cement out of the American market. The plan is favored by anti-union building contractors of this section as well as labor men. These business men were enjoined in the federal court against enforcing their black list of business men who employed union labor.

It is declared that the price-fixing, union-crushing cement trust has hampered building activities in the Bay counties. The Alameda county building contractors' exhibit in opposition to the cement ring's control of that commodity. The City of Berkeley itself has built a cement road, and in each case the bid was identical, although the companies, the building craftsmen say, manufacture their cement under entirely dissimilar conditions with a dissimilar cost of production."

NEW YORK WAGES DROP

Albany, N. Y., March 8.—Factory pay rolls in this state showed a reduction of almost 2 per cent in January from the December figures, according to the state department of labor. The result was a decrease of 17 cents in the average weekly earnings of employes now on the pay rolls.

RAPS BUILDING COSTS

New York, March 8.—Standardization in the building industry would cut building costs, said Sullivan Jones, state architect, in an address to the New York building congress. He urged the elimination of many styles and sizes of articles.

THUGS CAUSED MARCH; KILLED TWO MINERS

Fayetteville, W. Va., March 8.—The killing of two miners by coal owners' gun men and the march of miners in 1921, according to testimony at the trial of Frank Keeney, president of the West Virginia miners, who is charged with murder in connection with the march. It was brought out that Keeney pleaded with the miners to abandon their mad enterprise. The coal owners' attorneys fought against admitting the testimony, but they were overruled by the court.

One of the star witnesses for the coal owners is J. E. Wilburn, a miner and unschooled mountain preacher. He was convicted of second degree murder last year and sentenced to 11 years in the penitentiary. Then he deserted the union, and has been testifying for the coal owners. At the Keeney trial he was enmeshed in his previous statements and was compelled to admit he committed perjury. Wilburn is quartered at the best hotel in this place, and a taxi is at his disposal.

The Keeney trial is financed by the coal owners and associated corporations. The coal owners' attorneys have charge of the trial.

WANT PRIVATE PROFITS OUT OF INJURED WORKERS

Washington, March 8.—The Fitzgerald bill, which would eliminate private compensation insurance companies in the District of Columbia, is denounced by business interests that are lined up with the private companies.

All the hoodoos of "private monopoly" and "destruction of private initiative" is used by those who would profit out of the misery of disabled workers.

Congressman Fitzgerald, the author of the bill, says there is a nation-wide campaign to defeat his measure. The companies fear if congress approves this bill, the theory that there shall be no profit in compensation insurance will have received additional support, and the fight against private compensation insurance in the various states will be renewed with vigor.

The chief lobbyist for the private companies admits that American and British interests are urging the Underhill bill, which is favorable to them.

Testifying before the house committee, President Gompers declared that the Underhill bill merely provides for litigation and the necessity for employing lawyers. Mr. Gompers said that was wanted was a bill under which a man's injuries "will not be viewed from the cold, legal vision, but from a humane standpoint, even if it is without precedent."

ANTIS ARE DESERTED

St. Paul, Minn., March 8.—The citizens' alliance wishes that business men are deserting its cause.

...ance says it was assured that business men would aid building contractors if they declared for the anti-union shop. That's why the alliance is lecturing business men on "the sacredness of contracts."

THE WORLD'S SENSATION

New York, March 8.—The young son of one of this city's leading financiers has joined the Musicians' union, affiliated with the A. F. of L. Newspapers are treating the event as a world sensation.

HUGE TELEPHONE PROFITS

New York, March 8.—Last year's net profit of the Southwestern Bell telephone company was $9,299,678.

STOP COMPENSATION TO 4,000 EMPLOYES

Washington, March 8.—Compensation payments to 4,000 former federal employes throughout the United States has been stopped following a dispute between officials of the employes' compensation commission and Controller General McCarl.

The controversy has been paying benefits to persons suffering from vocational diseases contracted in the course of employment by the government, such as tuberculosis, etc. Controller McCarl holds that under the workmen's compensation act only to those who are actually injured. He has refused to honor requisitions on the treasury for the vocational disease cases.

Prior to this the commission appealed to the president, who referred the matter to the attorney general's department. The commission claims the decision upholds its position, but the controller continues his opposition, regardless of the decision.

In handing down the decision, it is stated, the compensation that has been cut off has been the only means of support for these disabled employes.

Congressman Dallinger has introduced a bill that is intended to curb the powers of the controller general. That official has insisted his powers are greater than executives of governments departments, and he has even gone so far as to declare that the president of the United States has no power over his office or activities.

TAX-EXEMPT BONDS MEAN SOCIAL GAINS

New York, March 8.—State and municipal bond bankers deny the claim that they will be crippled if the issuance of tax-exempt securities is prohibited.

Opponents of these securities say investors buy them instead of placing their money in industry. Advocates of the tax-exempt bonds say that this money is used for permanent social improvements which tend to better the prosperity and the business of the state, counties and municipalities.

The banking house makes this point: "If by constitutional amendment the state of Illinois, instead of being able to borrow money at 4½ per cent, might have to pay 5¼ per cent, that would mean an added cost to the people of 20 per cent for that bond issue."

WARNS OF "CURES" FOR CONSUMPTION

New York, March 8.—"There is no specific cure for consumption, according to officers of the New York tuberculosis association, who say: "We warn the people of New York city to have nothing to do with 'cures' for consumption; there is none. Careful living in every way is the best corrective of the disease."

The officials say that climate is not so important a factor as is popularly supposed.

UPHOLDS UNION CONTRACT

Cleveland, March 8.—Common Pleas Judge John H. Clark dismissed John S. Baker's $10,000 damage suit against the Street Car Men's union, and similar suits against two street car companies. The union has a union-shop agreement with the companies. Baker was asked to join the organization, but refused. He was discharged and then started suit. In dismissing the suit, Judge Hay indicated that a contract between a union and an employer is as sacred as other contracts.

HIGHER UPS OPPOSE POST OFFICE WORKERS

Washington, March 8.—The administration is against wage increases for postal employes. This attitude is contained in a report of last national convention, which declared in favor of this wage increase.

The administration's views are expressed in an inspired newspaper story from the White House and in a letter by Postmaster General New which was read to the house committee that is holding hearings on the Edge-Kelly wage bill.

Mr. New says he favors high wages —but not now. He wants the subject investigated by some general body such as a congressional commission. He says it is necessary "to approach the question in a thorough manner, understanding and a consideration of all the facts involved."

Postmaster general's position was demolished by Secretary-Treasurer Flaherty of the National Federation of Post Office Clerks, who reminded the house committee that Mr. New can secure all the information he desires by reading a report by a congressional committee that inquired into post office affairs in 1919-20.

Mr. Flaherty makes it clear that the postmaster general's position is one of postponement. Conditions have necessitated this investigation, he said the trade unionist. "All data and other information is a matter of record and is available to Mr. New."

The postal workers are desperately in need of higher wages and will continue to agitate despite their added handicap. No wage movement has received such universal sympathy.

Mr. New's report improves, but a 2½ per cent increase among young men because of its low wages and limitations for advancement. That is destructive of the department morale and affects the service. As a result, business men and the public press have joined with the trade union movement in supporting the postal employes.

PRISON CONTRACTORS WOULD CORRUPT STATE

Oklahoma City, March 8.—The Reliance manufacturing company, prison labor contractors in this state, is charged by four legislators with contributing money to primary campaigns to debauch public officials.

The investigating committee presented a resolution to the state legislature calling for the abrogation of the company's contract at the state penitentiary.

The resolution states that evidence before the house investigating committee shows that the state is losing more than $70,000 through the contract. It is further stated that in the 1922 primary campaign the company fraudulently contributed $10,000 for the purpose of corrupting or unjustly influencing state officers in its favor in the management of its business in the said state prison."

INJURIES ARE COSTLY

Washington, March 8.—Industrial injuries in the coal mines of this country represent a loss of $70,000,000, according to the United States bureau of mines. In this year alone an average 200,000 of these injuries every year. The average mine accident entailing temporary disability, it is estimated an estimated loss of production of approximately 60 tons of coal. It is calculated that each accident of this nature results in a time loss to the worker of 15 days.

With the output of coal per man figured at four tons, and with coal valued at $3.25 per ton at the mine, the average value of lost time wage for each accident entailing temporary disability is $195. The time loss for each fatal accident would, of course, be increased if accidents entailing permanent disability or death were included in the tabulation.

LOGGING INDUSTRY DEADLY

Olympia, Wash., March 8.—During the last six years there were 912 fatal accidents in the logging industry of this state. Most of the deaths could be avoided, according to F. M. Harris of the department of labor and industries. The remedies include caution and a knowledge of the hazards on the part of workers, and a proper administration of logging operations by employers, Harris said.

RENEW AGREEMENT

Hamilton, Ontario, March 8.—Plasterers have secured a two years' renewal of their wage contract. The rate is $1.12½ an hour, or $9 a day.

HIGH AUTOMOBILE PROFITS

New York, March 8.—Net profits of $18,342,222 last year is reported by the Studebaker auto corporation.

TAX PLAN IS CHANGED; TREASURY HEAD LOSES

Washington, March 8.—Despite an extensive propaganda in its behalf, Secretary of the Treasury Mellon has lost his fight for a sales tax.

Enough of the administration party joined with the minority in favoring the bill proposed by Congressman Garner of Texas, that the administration party was forced to produce a substitute which was accepted by a vote of 408 to 8.

The portion of direct interest to wage workers is the tax on incomes not exceeding $4,000. Under the bill as passed this tax will be 2 per cent. The present rate ranges from 4 per cent. The Mellon bill called for 3 per cent and the Garner bill for 2 per cent.

The new proposal makes no change in exemptions. These are $1,000 for a single person and $2,500 for heads of families.

The big fight wealth made for the Mellon plan was centered on its reduction of the surtax. Under the present law surtax rates are as high as 50 per cent, increased in excess of $200,000 a year. The Mellon bill reduced this to 25 per cent on incomes in excess of $100,000.

Every power that wealth, plutocracy and privilege could muster was rallied in the fight for this substantial cut of their income taxes.

The Garner bill reduced this surtax only to 40 per cent, or 10 per cent. Fearful that this bill would be adopted, the administration party dropped the Mellon 25 per cent proposal and favored a 12½ per cent reduction, or a 37½ per cent tax, which has been adopted.

It is claimed that the Mellon plan advocates are not pleased and that they will attempt in the senate to restore the original proposed cut of 25 per cent.

This alleged dissatisfaction is good strategy as it would be folly for plutocracy to boast that it secured any reduction. Besides if it is successful in the next two years, it will have secured a 25 per cent cut.

CHILD-WELFARE STUDY HAS PROVEN EFFECTIVE

Washington, March 8.—A child-welfare commission, to study all laws concerning child welfare and to draft measures that would bring this legislation to twentieth-century standards, according to the United States children's bureau.

As an example of successful work by a state child-welfare commission, a summary of the achievements of the North Dakota children's code commission is given. The commission, after only discovered needs for children's legislation, but also interested the people of the state in the facts so secured, the commission drafted bills providing for modern standards in the fields concerning illegitimate children, mothers' pensions, adoption, the supervision of homes and institutions, the care and training of crippled children, child labor, school attendance, abandonment or neglect of wife and child and the guardianship of children.

COTTON CROP JUGGLED

Philadelphia, March 8.—The last ten-million bale cotton crop has been sold by Wall street three times. This means that on paper the crop has been sold three times more than the President McMahon of the United Textile Workers, writing in their official magazine. This juggling of cotton makes markets impossible, said the trade unionist. Added to this condition is the closing down of cotton mills when the profits of these factories are limited.

"There is some collusion somewhere between the cotton trust and production," said President McMahon. "If this restriction were caused by the manipulation of cotton it would be heard throughout the land at the number of working days lost and the millions of dollars' worth of cotton when the profits desire of some labor agitator or agitators to secure a livelihood."

OWNERS BOOST RENTS

Washington, March 8.—The senate has ordered a probe of charges by Senator Robinson that rent gouging and profiteering have combined to boost rents. Landlords say the charges are "absurd," an "outrage," etc., etc.

WIN 14 MONTHS' STRIKE

New York, March 8.—Officers of the International Fur Workers' union report a successful ending of the 14 months' strike against the Gubbe company at South Norwalk, Conn.

The agreement calls for the union shop, reduction of working hours, reinstatement of all strikers, and no discrimination.